

TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Thursday, October 8, 2009

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) was called to order at 1:34 p.m. by Chairperson Witthaus in Conference Room B-104, Valley Transportation Authority (VTA), 3331 North First Street, San Jose, California.

1. ROLL CALL

Attendee Name	Representing	Status
Greg Armendariz	City of Milpitas	Present
Rajeev Batra	City of Santa Clara	Present
Julie Caporgno	City of Palo Alto	Present
John Cherbone	City of Saratoga	Present
Richard Chiu	Town of Los Altos Hills	Absent
Dan Collen, Alternate	County of Santa Clara	Present
Kevin Connolly, Alt. Ex-Officio	VTA	Present
Don Dey	City of Gilroy	Present
Sylvia Fung, Alt. Ex-Officio	Dept. of Transportation (Caltrans)	Absent
Glenn Goepfert	City of Cupertino	Absent
Joan Jenkins	City of Mountain View	Present
Robert Kass	City of Campbell	Present
Larry Lind	City of Los Altos	Present
Kathleen Molloy Previsich	City of Morgan Hill	Absent
Kevin Rohani, Alternate	Town of Los Gatos	Present
Ed Slintak	City of Monte Sereno	Absent
Ben Tripousis	City of San Jose	Present
Jack Witthaus, Chairperson	City of Sunnyvale	Present

A quorum was present.

2. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

There were no Public Presentations.

3. ORDERS OF THE DAY

There were no Orders of the Day.

4. **Committee Staff Report**

Member Dey took his seat at 1:36 p.m.

John Ristow, Chief CMA Officer and Staff Liaison, provided a report highlighting: 1) Update on Advisory Committee Enhancement (ACE) Process; 2) Next ACE Task Force Meeting is scheduled on Wednesday, October 28, 2009, at 11:30 a.m.; and 3) California Transportation Commission (CTC) meeting scheduled the week of October 12, 2009, in San Diego, CA, to acknowledge the Highway 101 Corridor Mobility Improvement Account (CMIA) Project funding.

Ms. Fiore distributed the document entitled, “Caltrans District 4 – Office of Local Assistance Project Status, American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), Local Streets and Roads System Preservation Projects, Status as of October 1, 2009.” She provided a status report on the Tier 2 and Tier 1 Projects contained in the document.

Vice Chairperson Batra requested a status update be provided on the Governance issue at the November 12, 2009, TAC meeting.

On order of Chairperson Witthaus and there being no objection, the Committee Staff Report was received.

5. **Chairperson’s Report**

Chairperson Witthaus provided an update on the meeting held with the VTA Board of Directors Chairperson, Dolly Sandoval, Vice Chairperson, Sam Liccardo, and Advisory Committee Chairpersons. He noted it was anticipated the meetings would be held on a quarterly basis.

6. **Reports from TAC Working Groups**

- **Capital Improvement Program (CIP)**

Celeste Fiore, Transportation Planner II, reported the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Working Group held a Special meeting on October 1, 2009. The CIP Working Group discussed the Transportation Fund for Clean Air (TFCA) Project Review Criteria. Ms. Fiore noted the next regular meeting will be held on October 27, 2009.

- **Systems Operations and Management (SOM) Working Group**

Eugene Maeda, Senior Transportation Planner, reported at the September 23, 2009, Systems Operations and Management (SOM) Working Group meeting a discussion was held on the Transportation Fund for Clean Air (TFCA) Grants.

On order of Chairperson Witthaus and there being no objection, the reports from the TAC Working Groups were received.

5. **Chairperson's Report** (continued)

Chairperson Witthaus noted the October 9, 2009, deadline date to submit the Transportation System Monitoring Program Self-Assessment Survey.

7. **High Speed Rail/Caltrain Project**

Alternate Ex-Officio Member Connolly took his seat at 1:43 p.m.

Steven Fisher, Senior Transportation Planner, provided a status report on the High Speed Rail Project, highlighting: 1) Level of activity being driven by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Process; 2) High Speed Rail Commission accepted all of the Metropolitan Transportation Commission's (MTC's) recommendations the week of September 28, 2009; 3) Technical Working Group meeting held the week of September 28, 2009, regarding the Peninsula segment; 4) Open House to be held on October 9, 2009 in the City of Sunnyvale; 5) Peninsula Cities Consortium (PCC) Workshop Meeting held on October 3, 2009; 6) Update on the South segment (San Jose to Merced); 7) Community meeting held regarding the South segment on October 6, 2009, and on October 5, 2009, in the City of Gilroy; and 8) VTA is in the process of developing a work program to obtain assistance in helping VTA to evaluate how High Speed Rail will impact facilities owned/operated by VTA and how Caltrain and High Speed Rail will be operating in the same corridor.

Member Tripousis indicated the City of San Jose was working with the Consultant teams in the Monterey Highway corridor, noting the Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) issue. He also referenced the PCC conversation reported in the San Jose Mercury News and noted the rumors regarding the City of San Jose was removing the Light Rail line on Highway 87 and replacing it with High Speed Rail was false.

Vice Chairperson Batra commented while VTA is looking at Caltrain from a transit perspective, the cities will also be working on the negotiation efforts. He recommended VTA coordinate with the cities on this effort.

Member Caporgno took her seat at 1:56 p.m.

Chairperson Witthaus recommended having quarterly coordination meetings.

Member Tripousis commented on the possibility of establishing a Policy Advisory Board (PAB) for High Speed Rail similar to the PAB established for the BART Project. Mr. Fisher noted a Policy Group has been established and would be meeting on October 15, 2009. John Ristow, Chief CMA Officer and Staff Liaison, asked the TAC to inform VTA staff of the elected officials attending the meeting.

On order of Chairperson Witthaus and there being no objection, a verbal report on the High Speed Rail/Caltrain Project was received.

BUSINESS REFERRED TO COMMITTEE BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS/GENERAL MANAGER

CONSENT AGENDA

8. Minutes of August 13, 2009

M/S/C (Dey/Tripousis) to approve the Minutes of August 13, 2009.

9. Transit Operations Performance Report: Preliminary Annual Report (Fiscal Year 2009) (July 1, 2008-June 30, 2009)

M/S/C (Dey/Tripousis) to receive the Transit Operations Performance Report: Preliminary Annual Report (Fiscal Year 2009).

REGULAR AGENDA

10. Funding Program for County Expressway Pedestrian Projects

Marcella Rensi, Transportation Planning Manager, provided an overview of the proposed new funding program for County Expressway Pedestrian Projects. It had been proposed to take \$150,000 out of the Transportation Development Act (TDA) Article 3 Program, the 30 percent pool every year, and put it towards County expressway sidewalk projects. This would be a partnership program, where VTA funds would come from the TDA Article 3, and the County and respective city in which the project would be located would each provide equal amounts. Unfortunately, diverting money from the Bicycle Expenditure Program (BEP) would leave the County Expressway Sidewalk Program underfunded. At present, VTA is proposing to backfill the BEP with monies from the Community Design and Transportation (CDT) Program.

Member Kass expressed concern about the viability of requiring three-way VTA, County and City project funding commitments.

Member Dey queried if there was additional money for bicycles and pedestrians, was it possible for the future to explore a program that looks at sidewalk gaps.

M/S/C (Collen/Dey) to recommend the VTA Board of Directors adopt New Funding Program for County Expressways Pedestrian Projects.

NOTE: M/S/C MEANS MOTION SECONDED AND CARRIED AND, UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED, THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

11. Light Rail (LR) Systems Analysis – Alternatives Analysis

Kevin Connolly, Transportation Planning Manager, provided a PowerPoint Presentation entitled, “Light Rail System Analysis,” highlighting: 1) Project Background; 2) Stakeholder meetings; 3) Project Schedule; 4) Light Rail System: Constraints; 5) LRT vs. Auto – Peak Travel Times; 6) How do we improve the LRT system; 7) Components Tested; 8) Components to Move Forward; 9) Scenarios and Technical Assessment; 10) Scenarios A-E; and 11) Headlines (Faster Service; Better Rail Connections; Almaden Integrated into the LRT system; and New Service).

Mr. Connolly provided a report on the next steps, highlighting: 1) Technical Analysis; 2) Cost Estimating; 3) Cost/Benefit Analysis; 4) Prepare Investment Plan; and 5) VTA Board in December 2009.

Member Tripousis referenced the October 7, 2009, meeting held between the City of San Jose and VTA. He commented double tracking through the Transit Mall is very much a non-starter. He commented it would be better to try to develop a bypass route rather than double tracking through the existing Transit Mall.

Member Kass commented unlike the Comprehensive Operations Analysis (COA) for the Bus system, it seemed like everything discussed for the Light Rail system was very Capital costs intensive. He encouraged VTA to look at low cost options.

On order of Chairperson Witthaus and there being no objection, the Committee received information on the Light Rail System Analysis.

12. Dumbarton Bridge Retrofit Project

Member Kass left the meeting at 2:45 p.m.

Mo Pazooki, Caltrans Project Manager, provided a PowerPoint Presentation, entitled, “Dumbarton Bridge Seismic Retrofit Project,” highlighting: 1) Dumbarton Bridge Multiple Structure types, 2) Project General Plan; 3) East and West Approach; 4) Main Channel Crossing; 5) Main Channel Piers; 6) Aesthetics (East/West Approach, Main Channel Crossing Approach, and Trestle Structure); 7) Westside Proposed Temporary Barrier and Drainage; 8) Current Railing Configuration; and 9) Existing Expansion Joints, noting there is a \$4.8 million contract to replace/upgrade all of the joints. Mr. Pazooki noted the total cost of the Project was \$400 million.

On order of Chairperson Witthaus and there being no objection, the Committee received an overview on the Dumbarton Bridge Retrofit Project.

13. Express Lanes Program Update

Murali Ramanujam, Senior Transportation Engineer, reported on the Silicon Valley Express Lanes Program. He provided an update on the projects within the Silicon Valley Express Lanes program approved by VTA Board of Directors in December 2008. He mentioned the I-680 Express Lanes is scheduled for opening in fall 2010 while the State

Route (SR) 237/I-880 Express Connectors would open a few months after in the spring of 2011. The SR 237/I-880 Express Connectors project was delayed by a few months to obtain federal money for the project. SR 85 Express Lanes also received some ARRA funding and staff will be submitting the initial Project Study Report to Caltrans this month. US 101 Express Lanes is scheduled for completion in 2015.

Mr. Ramanujam provided an update on the Bay Area Regional Express Lanes Program, highlighting the status of Assembly Bill (AB) 744, on-going work on Regional Express Lanes Concept of Operations by BATA and joint marketing effort in preparation of the I-680 Express Lanes project. He also reported on other Express Lanes Projects in California, highlighting the Los Angeles Express Lanes that is scheduled to open in December 2010.

Mr. Ramanujam reported staff would be seeking committee input and guidance from VTA Board of Directors on policies related to Express Lanes that would be sought through a workshop in the spring of 2010. He also provided a summary on the potential VTA Board recommendations that could be sought based on the on-going Regional Concept of Operations work.

Alternate Member Collen indicated the Staff Report did not contain any information about revenue coming back to the corridors. He queried about the involvement of the Bay Area Toll Authority (BATA). Mr. Ristow noted currently BATA does not have tolling authority to collect revenues until AB 744 becomes law at which time there would be a joint revenue agreement. In the mean time, VTA has the authority through AB 2032 and will enter into an operating agreement with BATA to collect and process toll collections for VTA.

Member Tripousis recommended reviewing AB744 when the legislative session reconvenes, noting the current language is not favorable based on city staff review.

Member Dey expressed concern about BATA taking over the responsibility of which VTA already has the leadership on.

Chairperson Witthaus commented if VTA is going to be exploring policy issues at the Board level, to also consider public outreach as well. He suggested asking the question, "Does the public prefer to ship the revenue off to BATA or keep it local?"

On order of Chairperson Witthaus and there being no objection, the Committee received an update on the Silicon Valley Express Lanes Program.

14. Ramp Metering – Professional Services Contract Amendment

Member Tripousis left the meeting at 3:10 p.m.

David Kobayashi, Senior Transportation Planner, reported on the funding agreement in the amount of \$2,051,000 with the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC), which specified the roles and responsibilities of implementing ramp metering on the following three corridors in Santa Clara County: 1) Southbound SR 85 between Almaden Expressway and Cottle Road; 2) Northbound and Southbound SR 87 between US 101

and SR 85; and 3) Southbound US 101 between Embarcadero Road and De La Cruz Boulevard. He noted the implementation status for each of the corridors.

Mr. Kobayashi reported MTC approved the use of the unassigned remaining funds to go towards additional ramp metering. It was proposed to use the remaining funds to activate additional ramp meters on Southbound I-880 between SR 237 and I-280. The proposal was reviewed and supported by the Systems Operations & Management (SOM) Working Group of TAC.

Mr. Kobayashi reported VTA staff recommends the award of a contract amendment to the existing contract with Mark Thomas & Company for engineering services to implement ramp metering work on the I-880 corridor in the cities of Milpitas and San Jose. He provided a report on Mark Thomas & Company's experience and knowledge, and on the scope of work requirements.

Member Dey expressed concern regarding Caltrans' ability to operate and maintain projects.

Alternate Member Rohani left the meeting at 3:19 p.m.

Chairperson Witthaus requested the final ramp metering plans for I-880 between SR 237 and I-280 be brought to TAC for review prior to implementation.

M/S/C (Collen/Dey) to recommend the VTA Board of Directors authorize the General Manager to execute a contract amendment with the Mark Thomas & Company in an amount not to exceed \$303,395, for a new contract amount of \$1,244,677 for engineering services to implement ramp metering on I-880 between SR 237 and I-280 in the PM peak period; and, further, with the expectation and condition that TAC receives a report back on the progress of the existing implementation and resolution of issues associated with implementation before proceeding to implementation of any new corridor.

Chairperson Witthaus and Member Jenkins left the meeting at 3:23 p.m., the quorum was lost, and a Committee of the Whole was declared.

Vice Chairperson Batra presided over the remainder of the meeting.

OTHER

15. Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) Activities and Initiatives

Alternate Member Collen left the meeting at 3:25 p.m.

Chris Augenstein, Deputy Director, Planning, and Acting Staff Liaison, provided an update on what was happening with the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) and Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) regarding Senate Bill (SB) 375

implementation. He noted key pieces of information would be provided to TAC via e-mail and a status report would be provided on a monthly basis.

On order of Vice Chairperson Batra and there being no objection, the Committee of the Whole received an update on MTC Activities and Initiatives.

16. Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Subcommittee Report

Vice Chairperson Batra noted Chairperson Witthaus would provide the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Subcommittee Report at the November 12, 2009, TAC meeting.

17. Committee Work Plan

Chris Augenstein, Deputy Director, Planning, and Acting Staff Liaison, recommended Committee Members provide him with any comments/changes pertaining to the Work Plan via e-mail.

On order of Vice Chairperson Batra and there being no objection, the Committee of the Whole reviewed the Committee Work Plan.

18. Announcements

There were no Announcements.

19. ADJOURNMENT

On order of Vice Chairperson Batra and there being no objection, the meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tracene Y. Crenshaw, Board Assistant
Office of the Board Secretary